(b) if so, the number of drinking water schemes proposed to be taken in Karnataka with HUDCO assistance; and

(c) the amount of assistance sought for and the amount so far released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The HUDCO has informed that the KUWS & DB, has so far submitted four water supply and one underground drainage scheme for a total project cost of Rs. 143.66 crores with a loan amount of Rs. 100.56 crores.

(c) The HUDCO has informed that the Govt. of Karnataka has so far sought loan assistance of Rs. 462.85 crores for water supply and drainage sector (38 schemes) and HUDCO has already sanctioned 33 schemes in above sector with the project cost of Rs. 761.70 crores and loan assistance of Rs. 362.29 crores. Out of sanctioned loan of Rs. 362.29 crores, an amount of Rs. 200.70 crores have already been released.

Urban Development Schemes in Assam

428. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken up urban development schemes in Assam;

(b) if so, the details of on-going schemes, particularly in Southern Assam known as Barak Valley;

(c) the amount allocated for these schemes during the past two years;

(d) what is the progress and whether it is satisfactory; and

(e) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details of ongoing schemes in Assam including Barak Valley is as under:

(i) Integrated Development of Small & Medium Towns (IDSMT): Details at Annexure-I [*see* Appendix 189, Annexure No.-11]

(ii) Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP): Details at Annexure-II. [*see* Appendix 189, Annexure No.-11]

(iii) Urban infrastucture schemes financed by HUDO: Details at Annexure-III. [*see* Appendix 189, Annexure No.-11]

(iv) Low Cost Sanitation Schemes: 27 Schemes with a project cost of Rs. 3908.27 lakhs involving a loan amount of Rs. 1701.97 lakhs and a subsidy of Rs. 1284.59 lakhs were sanctioned till 1997.

(c) The amount released under the schemes during the last two years is as under:

(i) Integrated Development of Small & Medium Towns (IDSMT) :

1997-98	Rs. 51.86 lakhs
1998-99	Rs. 18.09 lakhs

(ii) Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP) :

1997-98	Rs. 140.00 lakhs
1998-99	Rs. 198.87 lakhs

(iii) Urban infrastructure schemes financed by HUDCO :

During the last two years, three projects costing Rs. 38.95 crores including loan component of Rs. 25.02 crores, have been sanctioned. However no releases have been made.

(iv) Low Cost Sanitation Scheme: No scheme was submitted by the State Govt. during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000. No funds were released under the Scheme during this period.

(d) Progress under the Scheme is satisfactory. Details are as under:

(i) Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns (IDSMT) : Against the release of total Central assistance amounting to Rs. 688.36 lakhs, the State Govt. has reported an expenditure of Rs. 868.66 lakhs upto March, 1999.

(ii) Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP) : Against the total Central assistance of Rs. 595.57 lakhs, the State share released is Rs. 289.60 lakhs. The expenditure reported by the State Govt. upto September, 99 is Rs. 484.90 lakhs.

(iii) Urban infrastructure scheme financed by HUDCO: 22 schemes have been sanctioned involving project cost of Rs. 302.26 crores with a loan component of Rs. 197.27 crores. As against this loan released is Rs. 79.76 crores.

(iv) Low cost Sanitation Scheme: 27 Schemes with a project cost of Rs. 3908.27 lakhs involving a loan amount of Rs. 1701.97 lakhs and a

subsidy of R.s 1284.59 lakhs were sanctioned till 1997. Loan amount of Rs. 199.23 lakhs and subsidy of Rs. 418.56 lakhs was released.

(c) Question does not arise.

Corruption in Collection of Property Taxes

429. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is too much corruption and unhealthy activities in collecting taxes on land and buildings in urban areas;

(b) if so, what are the remedies; and

(c) whether Government plan to reduce the rate of taxes to a reasonable level so that more taxes can be collected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) It has been experienced that the collection of taxes on land and building in urban areas has been a subject of corruption and malpractice. To prevent such practices and also it make the collection of taxes more rational. Ministry of Urban Development has prepared and circulated guidelines on property tax reforms to all States and Union Territories for necessary action.

(c) As per entry 5 of the State list of the constitution, municipality is a State subject. Therefore, it is for the concerned State Governments to take decisions on fixation of rate of various types of taxes. However, the guideliness on property tax reforms circulated by the Ministry of Urban Development advocated for Area Based Property Tax Model. The main objectives of the guidelines are as under :

(1) Low rate of property Tax so as to make it acceptable by the public at large.

(2) Minimise the discretion on the part of assessors in tax levy;

(3) Make the process of assessment, levy and collection transparent and simple;

(4) Ensure equity between different classes of tax payers/property owners;

(5) Facilitate self assessment of property tax by property owners/occupiers.